

Miscellaneous.

LYNN, NORFOLK.—At a meeting of the committee of subscribers, it was resolved that application be made to the town council to grant the Tower Field as a site for the intended new church. A meeting of the council was held on Thursday, to take the same into consideration, when, as there appeared a diversity of opinion as to the propriety of granting the same, in the present depressed state of the corporation finances, the site in question being very valuable for building-ground, it was resolved that a committee be formed to consider the application, and deliver a report to the council at a future meeting, the council being disposed to assist the subscribers. It is earnestly hoped that the council may yet grant the request, as, in addition to the site being very eligible, the old tower standing thereon may be made use of, and contribute greatly to the beauty of the sacred edifice. The subscription list amounts to £4,336/1. 8s.—*Stamford Mercury.*

ST. MARGARET'S FREE CHURCH, BELHELVIEW.—This barn-like edifice was no sooner roofed in than it was taken possession of by a strong, athletic person of disordered intellect, who, like others of the party to which he professes to belong, declares himself to be conversant with the mind of Jesus Christ upon the subject of non-intrusion. He employs himself in arranging the wood in the form of seats, and maintains that he holds a commission from on high to hold forth there, which no human power dare deprive him of. Under these circumstances, the progress of the work is at present at a standstill; but we understand the famous new Mæhar elder, Mr. James Mackenzie, has donned a new suit of black, and proceeded to Glasgow to consult Dr. Chalmers upon the subject. What the doctor will do in such an emergency remains to be seen.

CHURCH DECORATORS.—A new profession is being formed, as we have all along pointed out would be the case. Mr. Taylor Bulmer, a gentleman from the north we believe, is gathering great repute from the success of his works in Liverpool and Hull, the sanctuaries of two Catholic chapels there being, it is said, most effectively embellished under this gentleman's hands and direction.

Several workmen are now being employed by Lieut.-Colonel Sir Digby Macworth, Bart., in digging the Amphitheatre, called King Arthur's Round Table, at Caerleon, and the fields contiguous, for the purpose of discovering some remains of the ancient and once glorious city—Iaca Silurum. Various portions of buildings have been discovered.—*Merlin.*

INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING THE ENLARGEMENT, BUILDING, AND REPAIRING OF CHURCHES AND CHAPELS.—This society have resumed their sittings for the present season. Grants have been voted towards building a church at Cowhill, in the parish of Oldham, Lancashire; building a church in the parish of St. Andrew, Plymouth; building a church at Broad Town, in the parishes of Broad Hinton and Cliffe Pypard, Wiltshire; building a chapel at Ingletton, in the parish of Stalpoord, Durham; building a church at Milton-next-Gravesend, Kent; rebuilding a chapel at Penrhos, Montgomeryshire; enlarging, by rebuilding, the church at Dawley, Salop; enlarging, by rebuilding, the nave of the church at Holcombe Burnell, Devon; repairing the church at Holwell, Beds; enlarging the church at Codford St. Mary, Wilts; enlarging, by rebuilding, the nave of the church at Winterborne, Whitechurch, Dorset, increasing the accommodation in the church at Llandyfriog, Cardiganshire; increasing the accommodation in the church at Hixton, Cambridgeshire; enlarging the church at Woodham Mortimer, Essex; building a church at Eccleshall, in the parish of Bradford, Yorkshire; and rebuilding the chapel at Ellerton, Yorkshire. The population of these parishes and districts is 108,508 persons, with fourteen churches and chapels, accommodating 13,873 persons, including free seats for 4,666 persons. With the society's aid seven new churches will be erected in populous districts, by which means, together with the alterations contemplated in the existing places of worship, 4,527 additional sittings will be provided, 3,113 of which will be free. Certificates of the completion of the works in twenty-two parishes were examined and approved, and the board issued orders to the treasurer for the payment of the grant awarded in each case. Previously to the execution of the works (which included the erection of twelve new churches and chapels) the provision of church room in these twenty-two parishes, which contained a population of 119,934 persons, was 23,210 sittings, 8,497 of which were free; to this very insufficient accommodation 6,939 sittings are now added, 5,304 of which are free.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN CHURCH-BUILDING ASSOCIATION.—In the space of seven years, 15 new churches have been built under the auspices of this society, where no church existed before; 14 insufficient or dilapidated churches have been taken down and re-built on an extended scale; 40 others have been enlarged by aisles or transepts; and by various means have been made to accommodate a larger number of parishioners; forming an aggregate of 69 churches which have received the aid of the Association during that short period.

ALLOTMENT SYSTEM.—At Bearsted, Kent, last Tuesday week, on the rent day of the holders of parish allotments, the most cheering evidence was supplied of the grateful character of the poor under any circumstances of considerate and kind treatment. The rents were paid punctually, although at the rate of 40s. per acre. The gentry of the neighbourhood gave a supper to the tenants, who number upwards of forty. The best cultivated allotment, as far as manual labour was concerned, was one whose occupier could not obtain employment during the greater part of last spring. His spare time was devoted to the better cultivation of his allotment, which amply repaid his exertions by an abundant and excellent crop.

IMPROVEMENTS AT WINDSOR CASTLE AND TOWN.—Capt. Tucker, of the royal artillery, and a company of the royal sappers and miners, have been engaged for the last six months in a survey, under the direction of the Woods and Forests Office, with a view to provide for the better drainage of the town and castle. The expense, it is stated, will amount to 30,000*l.*, of which the Government propose to provide two-thirds, if the inhabitants of the borough will raise by rate the remaining 10,000*l.*

IMMENSE IRON MINE NEAR BALTIMORE.—*The Baltimore Sun* says:—"We have the satisfaction to announce that an immense iron mine has been discovered, extending along the shore, as well as some distance into the river. The outer edge of the mine has been walled up, and large quantities of ore have been raised, which good judges pronounce to be equal in quality to any that has been discovered in the United States. The ore is almost as heavy as iron itself, and will of course yield largely. A large engine has been erected, and it is expected that operations in smelting will be commenced about Christmas."

THE IRON TRADE.—At a meeting of the Yorkshire and Derbyshire iron-masters, held at the Tontine Inn, Sheffield, on Thursday, an advance of 15s. per ton was declared, with a further rise before Christmas.

Mr. Slaney, one of the commissioners appointed by Government to inquire into the health of the population of large towns, and who recently paid a visit to Birmingham for that purpose, has made a statement of the result of his inquiries to an influential meeting of the inhabitants of Shrewsbury, at which the Mayor presided. The object which was sought to be accomplished by the labours of the commission was to improve the health of the working classes by an efficient system of drainage, by a better plan in the erection of dwellings, and by a plentiful supply of water. The pernicious habits to which many of the poor were addicted, arose in a great measure from the absence of those comforts in their houses which drove the poor man to the beer shop, or the public house, and frequently ended in loss of health, and the pauperism of his family. Mr. Slaney pointed out the advantages which arose from ventilation and cleanliness, as a means of contributing to health, a striking example of which was supplied in the metropolis; for while at the west end, where the streets were wide and clean, and the drainage good, the mortality amounted to only 2 per cent., in the east end, where the population lived in crowded streets, courts, and alleys, the mortality was 4 per cent. The mortality of the entire kingdom averaged 2 per cent., or 1 in 50; and the worst town in England was Liverpool, where the mortality was a little more than 3½ per cent., arising from the want of drainage and ventilation, and to the large mass of the population who inhabited cellars. In one district the mortality was 4½ per cent., while in another it was only 2 per cent.; and he had no doubt in some parts of the town it exceeded 5 per cent. Mr. Slaney stated that the average mortality of Birmingham was a little more than 2½ per cent., while in Wolverhampton (one of the worst towns he had visited) it was 3, and in some parts 4 per cent. It was considered that all towns were unhealthy where the average exceeded 2 per cent. The average of Walsall was nearly 2½ per cent., and Dudley and Shrewsbury were the same. The inquiries of the commission were also directed to the proper ventilation of the schools of large towns, and to the establishment of public walks, and a fund was voted by parliament for making grants for purchasing open spaces of ground for the recreation of the inhabitants.

EXTERNAL ASPECT OF OXFORD.—In one of the most fertile districts of that Queen of the Seas whom nature has so richly blessed—whom for centuries past no footsteps of foreign armies has desecrated—whose trident bears sway over a wider circle than ever did the sword of the ancient mistress of the world—lies a broad green vale, where the Cherwell and the Isis mingle their full clear waters. Here and there primeval elms and oaks overshadow them; while in their various windings they encircle gardens, meadows, and fields, villages, cottages, farm-houses, and country-seats in motley mixture. In the midst rises a mass of mighty buildings, the general character of which varies between convent, palace, and castle. Some few Gothic church towers and Romanic domes, it is true, break through the horizontal lines; yet the general impression, at a distance and at first sight, is essentially different from that of any of the towns of the middle ages. The outlines are far from being so sharp, so angular, so irregular, so fantastical; a certain softness, a peculiar repose reigns in these broader terrace-like rising masses. Not that the Gothic pinnacles that point up into the sky are in themselves inconspicuous; the tower of St. Mary's is inferior to but few of the third order. But they all appear less prominent than either the horizontal lines or the cupular form, which here and there rears its head; whether it be from its great variety or its more perfect harmony with the style of the whole, that the latter arrest the eye more than the former. The principal masses consist of the colleges, the university buildings, and the city churches; and by the side of these the city itself is lost on distant view. But on entering the streets, we find around us all the signs of an active and prosperous trade. Rich and elegant shops in profusion afford a sight to be found nowhere but in England, although side by side, it must be owned, with the darkest contrasts of misery and depravity. But the stately houses of merchants, retailers, craftsmen, and inn-keepers, with all their glitter and show, sink into a modest, and, as it were, menial attitude by the side of the grandly severe memorials of the higher intellectual life; memorials which have been growing out of that life from almost the beginning of Christian civilization. They are, as it were, the domestic offices of these palaces of learning, which ever rivet the eye and mind of the observer, all beside seeming perforce to be subservient to them. Oxford, indeed, has no manufactures of consequence. The sweating, sooty, giant industry of the day offers to the Muses nothing but his previously finished produce, without forcing on the sense the thousand offensive consequences of its creation. The population, moreover, has a tranquil character, making it seem to be far less dense than in other flourishing English towns, and, in fact, the noisy whirling streams of human creatures that hurry along the streets of London, Manchester, Liverpool, and Birmingham would be ill-adapted to the architectural and historical character of the place. Yet there is nothing herein to suggest the idea of poverty or decay. What strikes the eye as most peculiar, is the contrast between the fashionable and varied dress of the more active and busy townspeople, and the ancient, severe, and ample ecclesiastical costume of the "gownsmen," who may plainly enough be seen to be the ruling spirit of the place. Everywhere, indeed, wealth and rank are sure to meet with outward signs of respect; nowhere more surely than in England, and from tradespeople of the middle classes. But perhaps in all the world it might be hard to find so many forms, evidently the stately representatives of the genius of the place, as are the fellows and masters of the colleges at an English university. It is a peculiar type, propagated from generation to generation. The university towns have happily escaped the lot of modern beautification, and in this respect harmonize with the colleges. Each of the larger and more ancient colleges looks like a separate whole—an entire town, whose walls and monuments proclaim the vigorous growth of many centuries; in fact, every college is in itself a sort of chronicle of the history of art in England, and more especially of architecture.—*Huber's English Universities.*

EARLS COURT, BROMPTON.—Beautiful villas and a splendid square, styled Thurlow-square, are being built in the Earls Court Road, on the estate of H. B. Alexander, Esq., and under the direction of Mr. Basevi, the architect. Mr. Holmes and other builders are engaged in the works.

HEALTH OF TOWNS.—Mr. Chadwick, the secretary of the Poor Law Commission, with Mr. Smith, of Deanston, have been in Sheffield prosecuting inquiries under the above commission. It is said that the result, so far as it goes, is startling.

ATMOSPHERIC RAILWAY.—Daily trips are now being made on the Atmospheric Railway from Dalkey to Killybeg, and the speed is frequently not less than 60 miles an hour.

Professor Lee, the greatest of modern linguists, acquired his chief knowledge of languages whilst working at his trade as a carpenter.